AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1-2. (Cancelled.)

3. (Currently Amended): The fluid inflatable packer of claim [[~~2~~]] 4 further comprising an inflation chamber formed between the inflatable element and the mandrel, wherein the inflatable element is inflated and deflated by unfiltered process fluid provided through the openings to the inflation chamber.

4. (Currently Amended): ~~The fluid inflatable packer of claim 2 wherein~~ A fluid inflatable packer comprising:

an inflatable element exposed to an interior of the fluid inflatable packer, wherein the inflatable element inflates and deflates with unfiltered process fluid pressure in the interior of the fluid inflatable packer; and

a mandrel having a plurality of openings along its length, wherein:

the inflatable element is disposed about the mandrel;

the interior of the fluid inflatable packer comprises an interior of the mandrel;

the inflatable element is exposed to the interior of the mandrel through the openings;

the inflatable element inflates and deflates with unfiltered process fluid pressure in the interior of the mandrel; and

the openings comprise at least twenty percent of the surface area of the mandrel.

5. (Currently Amended): The fluid inflatable packer of claim [[~~2~~]] 4 wherein the openings comprise at least thirty-five percent of the surface area of the mandrel.

6. (Currently Amended): The fluid inflatable packer of claim [[~~2~~]] 4 wherein the openings comprise at least fifty percent of the surface area of the mandrel.

7. (Currently Amended): The fluid inflatable packer of claim [[~~2~~]] 4 wherein the openings comprise at least seventy percent of the surface area of the mandrel.

8. (Currently Amended): The fluid inflatable packer of claim [[~~2~~]] 4 wherein the inflatable element comprises:

a bladder covering the openings;

a reinforcing element disposed outwardly of the bladder; and

a cover disposed outwardly of the reinforcing element.

9. (Currently Amended): The fluid inflatable packer of claim [[~~2~~]] 4 further comprising first and second tensioning collars coupled to the mandrel, wherein:

the inflatable element is coupled to and disposed between the first and second tensioning collars; and

the first and second tensioning collars maintain the inflatable element in tension.

10. (Original): The fluid inflatable packer of claim 9 wherein one of the first and second tensioning collars is fixably secured to the mandrel.

11. (Original): The fluid inflatable packer of claim 9 wherein the first and second tensioning collars are fixably secured to the mandrel.

12. (Original): The fluid inflatable packer of claim 9 wherein one of the first and second tensioning collars is secured to the mandrel by a tensioning spring.

13. (Currently Amended): A fluid inflatable packer comprising an inflatable element exposed to an interior of the fluid inflatable packer, wherein the inflatable element inflates and deflates with unfiltered process fluid pressure in the interior of the fluid inflatable packer, and ~~The fluid inflatable packer of claim 1~~ further comprising one or more connecting elements coupled between an upper sub and a lower sub, wherein:

the inflatable element is disposed about the connecting elements; and

the inflatable element is exposed to the interior of the fluid inflatable packer through openings between the connecting elements.

14. (Original): The fluid inflatable packer of claim 13 wherein the connecting elements comprise one or more bars.

15. (Original): The fluid inflatable packer of claim 13 wherein the connecting elements comprise one or more cables.

16-19. (Cancelled.)

20. (Currently Amended): ~~The fluid inflatable packer of claim 19~~ A fluid inflatable packer comprising:

an inflatable element;

an inflation chamber formed within the inflatable element, wherein the inflatable element is inflated and deflated by unfiltered process fluid provided to the inflation chamber; and

a mandrel having at least one opening along its length, wherein:

the inflatable element is disposed about the mandrel;

the inflation chamber is formed between the inflatable element and the mandrel;

the inflatable element is inflated and deflated by unfiltered processed fluid provided to the inflation chamber through the at least one opening in the mandrel; and

~~wherein the~~ at least one opening in the mandrel comprises at least twenty percent of the surface area of the mandrel.

21. (Currently Amended): The fluid inflatable packer of claim ~~19~~ 20 wherein the at least one opening in the mandrel comprises at least thirty-five percent of the surface area of the mandrel.

22. (Currently Amended): The fluid inflatable packer of claim ~~19~~ 20 wherein the at least one opening in the mandrel comprises at least fifty percent of the surface area of the mandrel.

23. (Currently Amended): The fluid inflatable packer of claim ~~19~~ 20 wherein the at least one opening in the mandrel comprises at least seventy percent of the surface area of the mandrel.

24. (Currently Amended): The fluid inflatable packer of claim ~~19~~ 20 wherein the inflatable element comprises:

a bladder covering the at least one opening in the mandrel;

a reinforcing element disposed outwardly of the bladder; and

a cover disposed outwardly of the reinforcing element.

25. (Currently Amended): The fluid inflatable packer of claim ~~19~~ 20 further comprising first and second tensioning collars coupled to the mandrel, wherein:

the inflatable element is coupled to and disposed between the first and second tensioning collars; and

the first and second tensioning collars maintain the inflatable element in tension.

26. (Original): The fluid inflatable packer of claim 25 wherein the first and second tensioning collars are each fixably secured to the mandrel.

27. (Original): The fluid inflatable packer of claim 25 wherein the first tensioning collar is fixably secured to the mandrel, and the second tensioning collar is secured to the mandrel by a tensioning spring.

28. (Currently Amended): A fluid inflatable packer comprising:

an inflatable element;

an inflation chamber formed within the inflatable element, wherein the inflatable element is inflated and deflated by unfiltered process fluid provided to the inflation chamber; and

~~The fluid inflatable packer of claim 18 further comprising~~ one or more connecting elements coupled between an upper sub and a lower sub, wherein:

the inflatable element is disposed about the connecting elements; and

the inflatable element is exposed to the interior of the fluid inflatable packer through openings between the connecting elements.

29. (Original): The fluid inflatable packer of claim 28 wherein the connecting elements comprise one or more bars.

30. (Original): The fluid inflatable packer of claim 28 wherein the connecting elements comprise one or more cables.

31. (Currently Amended): The fluid inflatable packer of claim ~~18~~ 28 wherein the unfiltered process fluid comprises at least five pounds of solids per gallon.

32. (Currently Amended): The fluid inflatable packer of claim ~~18~~ 28 wherein the unfiltered process fluid comprises at least ten pounds of solids per gallon.

33. (Cancelled.)

34. (Currently Amended): A fluid inflatable packer comprising:

an open mandrel having a longitudinal passageway, and comprising ~~The fluid inflatable packer of claim 33 wherein the open mandrel comprises~~ an elongated body with one or more openings comprising at least thirty-five percent of the surface area of the open mandrel;

an inflatable element disposed about the open mandrel, wherein the open mandrel directly exposes the inflatable element to unfiltered process fluid and process fluid pressure in the longitudinal passageway; and

at least one tensioning collar maintaining the inflatable element in tension about the open mandrel when the fluid inflatable packer is in a deflated state and when the fluid inflatable packer is in an inflated state.

35. (Currently Amended): The fluid inflatable packer of claim ~~33~~ 34 wherein the open mandrel comprises an elongated body with one or more openings comprising at least fifty percent of the surface area of the open mandrel.

36. (Currently Amended): The fluid inflatable packer of claim ~~33~~ 34 wherein the inflatable element inflates and deflates with unfiltered process fluid pressure in the longitudinal passageway.

37-38. (Cancelled.)

39. (Currently Amended): A method of treating a subterranean formation, comprising the steps of:

pumping a process fluid to a fluid inflatable packer;

passing without filtration process fluid through an open mandrel of the fluid inflatable packer to an inflatable element of the fluid inflatable packer; and

inflating and deflating the inflatable element with the unfiltered process fluid, ~~The method of claim 38~~ wherein the unfiltered process fluid contains substantially no solids.

40. (Currently Amended): The method of claim ~~38~~ 39 wherein the step of inflating comprises the step of inflating the inflatable element with process fluid pressure in the open mandrel; and

further comprising the step of deflating the inflatable element with process fluid pressure in the open mandrel.

41-42. (Cancelled.)

43. (Original): A fluid inflatable packer comprising:

an open spring mandrel having at least one opening along its length;

an inflatable element disposed about the open spring mandrel, wherein:

the inflatable element is exposed to an interior of the open spring mandrel through the at least one opening; and

the inflatable element inflates and deflates with process fluid pressure in the interior of the open spring mandrel.

44. (Original): The fluid inflatable packer of Claim 43, wherein the open spring mandrel biases the inflatable element toward a deflated state.

45. (Previously Presented): A fluid inflatable packer comprising:

an inflatable element; and

a mandrel having a plurality of openings along its length, wherein:

the inflatable element is disposed about the mandrel;

the interior of the fluid inflatable packer comprises an interior of the mandrel;

the inflatable element is exposed to the interior of the mandrel through the openings;

the openings comprise at least twenty percent of the surface area of the mandrel; and

the inflatable element inflates and deflates with process fluid pressure in the interior of the mandrel.

46. (Previously Presented): The fluid inflatable packer of claim 45 wherein the openings comprise at least thirty-five percent of the surface area of the mandrel.

47. (Previously Presented): The fluid inflatable packer of claim 45 wherein the openings comprise at least fifty percent of the surface area of the mandrel.

48. (Previously Presented): The fluid inflatable packer of claim 45 wherein the openings comprise at least seventy percent of the surface area of the mandrel.

49. (Previously Presented): The fluid inflatable packer of claim 45 wherein the inflatable element comprises:

a bladder covering the openings;

a reinforcing element disposed outwardly of the bladder; and

a cover disposed outwardly of the reinforcing element.

50. (Previously Presented): The fluid inflatable packer of claim 46 further comprising first and second tensioning collars coupled to the mandrel, wherein:

the inflatable element is coupled to and disposed between the first and second tensioning collars; and

the first and second tensioning collars maintain the inflatable element in tension.

51. (Previously Presented): The fluid inflatable packer of claim 51 wherein one of the first and second tensioning collars is fixably secured to the mandrel.

52. (Previously Presented): The fluid inflatable packer of claim 51 wherein the first and second tensioning collars are fixably secured to the mandrel.

53. (Previously Presented): The fluid inflatable packer of claim 51 wherein one of the first and second tensioning collars is secured to the mandrel by a tensioning spring.

54. (Currently Amended): The fluid inflatable packer of claim 13 wherein the unfiltered process fluid comprises a portion of sand or other solids.